

SEEDS IN THE NEW ORGANIC REGULATION 2108/848

Availability of organic seeds for
farmers -

Perspective of small scale farmers

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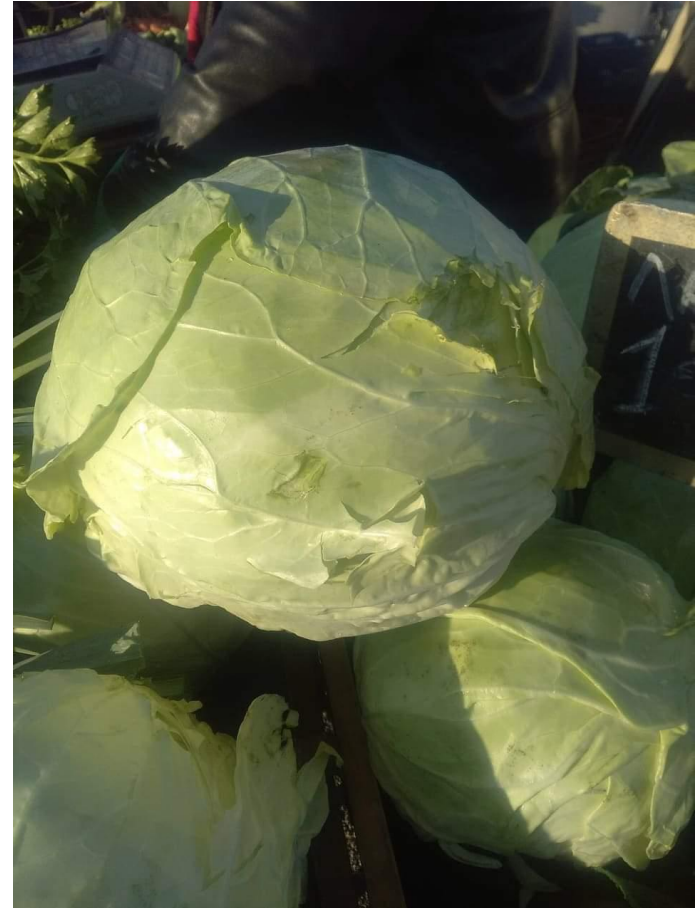
Some early realisations

- Lack of know – how on organic farming practices/ seed keeping
- No organic seeds available
- Hybrid seeds not suitable for organic farming

Official solution: permission to use non organic seeds

Our solution:

Turning to seeds from our area (cabbagge, leak, celery, a melon variety resistant to dry conditions) – they proved to be suitable for our needs



- Evaluating seeds from other areas – not all of them met our expectations but some adopted successfully (eg tomato from Chios island)



One of our success stories: a red, sweet pepper from north – west Greece, originally grown in colder climate (*piperia florinis*)



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- Almost every farmer in our Union keeps and plants seeds from local or locally adjusted varieties



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- There are 5 farmers specialised in wheat that plant only seeds from “old varieties” (e.g. triticum monococcum, triticum spelta, limnaia gi, mavragani)
- The Union started creating a database with information on “who grows what”
- Suggestion: re – opening of the National Seed Production Center

- The new Regulation answers the fundamental request of organic farmers to produce and use their own organic seeds, enhancing biodiversity



Thank you!

